

Increases family separation allowance for troops who are deployed away from their families.

Increases hostile fire and imminent danger pay for the first time since 2004.

Expands college loan repayment benefits.

Includes the most comprehensive legislative package to ever address sexual assault in the military, including 28 provisions to implement into law many of the recommendations of the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault.

Establishes a pilot program to offer an alternative career path to military officers, providing a broader range of experiences over a longer career.

Establishes a pilot program to help military spouses take advantage of their personal skill sets to identify and obtain desirable and portable careers.

Authorizes an additional special one-time payment to seriously wounded servicemembers to pay for the relocation costs of their caregivers;

Provides \$1.2 billion with broad authorities for projects in Afghanistan to allow our commanders on the ground to immediately respond to military construction needs in theater.

In closing, I hope my colleagues will join me in support of H.R. 5136. I believe we are all on one accord that without reservation we support our men and women of the United States military. I support this bill and I ask my colleagues to support my proposed amendments and H.R. 5136.

#### HONORING THE NANTAHALA SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM OF MACON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

##### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the basketball team of the Nantahala School in Macon County, North Carolina. The team had an exceptional season, finishing with a record of 23–7 and an appearance in the regional semi-final game.

Their season would be considered impressive for a team from any school, but this team comes from remarkable circumstances. There are only 36 students in the school, 18 of which are men. Over half the eligible students play on the basketball team. From one of the smallest schools in the State of North Carolina, this group of young men was able to hold their own against teams from much larger schools.

Making their success less probable, the school graduated some excellent basketball players last year, retiring three jerseys. The class of 2009 accounted for over 3,000 career points. Fortunately, this year's seniors—Jordan West, Wesley Holden, Josh Griffith, Jerrod Crosby, and Woody Passmore—were equally impressive in fulfilling their leadership roles.

The team's final game against Hendersonville High School in the regional semifinals was a testament to their perseverance. Trailing at one point by 16 points, it seemed the odds were against them. Still, the team played with everything they had. With 43 seconds remaining, Jordan West gave Nantahala the

lead. Hendersonville managed to pull back ahead, but Nantahala fell only three points short of playing in the regional finals for a spot in the North Carolina State championship game.

Some of the team achieved special recognition for their outstanding seasons. Wesley Holden averaged 13 points per game and was selected to play in the Blue-White all-star game. Josh Griffith, averaging 18 points per game, was selected to play in the Blue-White all-star game and the regional all-tournament team. Coach Josh Taylor and Assistant Coach Tom Dillard have created a strong program, and I doubt this is the last we have heard from this small school in the mountains.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the impressive Nantahala School basketball team for their accomplishments and wishing them continued success in future years.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 19, 2010 and Monday, May 24, 2010 through Friday, May 28, 2010 I was unable to be in Washington, DC due to a family emergency and thus missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Nos. 276, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 320, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 333, 335 and "nay" on Nos. 277, 306, 307, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 332, 334, 336.

#### RECOGNIZING THE "STAR OF LIFE" AWARD RECIPIENT FRANCISCO "CISCO" PRECIADO

##### HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Francisco "Cisco" Preciado, to whom the "Star of Life" medal, a national award which recognizes the country's most outstanding Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians, was re-presented.

Previously a member of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coastguard, Mr. Preciado started his career as a paramedic in 2005. His efforts established him as a dependable worker who was one of the best and brightest in his field. In 2009, his hard work under Southwest Ambulance was recognized in the form of the prestigious "Star of Life" medal. Preciado gave away his medal earlier this year, in a touching tribute to a friend and co-worker—EMT Mark Vernick—who was killed in a motorcycle collision. In what he thought was a private tribute, Preciado placed his medal in Vernick's casket.

I extended this honor again not only to commend his performance as a paramedic, but to pay tribute to the quality of his character. Mr. Preciado unselfishly placed his original medal inside the casket of his friend and co-worker,

Mark Vernick. This action speaks to the strength of his integrity. It is for this reason that I offered Mr. Preciado a replacement "Star of Life" medal.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the presentation of the "Star of Life" medal to Mr. Francisco Preciado.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INNOVATOR AND PHILANTHROPIST JOHN SOTO

##### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a self-made man and former New England Businessman of the Year, and one who has given of himself time and again to improve our Connecticut community—John Soto.

After a boyhood in Puerto Rico and some apprenticeship in the business and mechanical arts as a machinist in Manhattan, John founded Space-Craft Manufacturing, Inc. in Milford, Connecticut in 1970. Starting with just four employees, Space-Craft has, thanks to John's eye for innovation and business savvy, grown to become an industry leader in aircraft engine and airframe components over the past four decades, even earning the National Supplier of the Year award from the U.S. Air Force in 2001.

These entrepreneurial and engineering accomplishments have been matched by John's passion for community service and a strong commitment to public investment. So that others may follow in his footsteps, John has founded several scholarships for Latino students and been a continual presence in Connecticut inner-city schools. He has also contributed generously to Youth at Risk, Junior Achievement, New Haven's Latino Youth Development Program, and other very worthwhile organizations aimed at helping Connecticut's underprivileged and least fortunate.

In both his company's success and his dedication to public service, John has been an embodiment of the American dream. From modest beginnings, he has contributed mightily to his community, his state, and to the United States military. I congratulate him and his wife Gladys on this long career of personal success and public service, and I know that they will continue to be a credit to our district for years to come.

#### HONORING CRAIG BIEGEL

##### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 8, 2010*

Mrs. McCarthy of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Craig Biegel, the Award of Merit Winner for the 4th Congressional District's high school art competition, "An Artistic Discovery." An Artistic Discovery recognizes and encourages the artistic talent in the nation, as well as in each congressional district. The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for Members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their